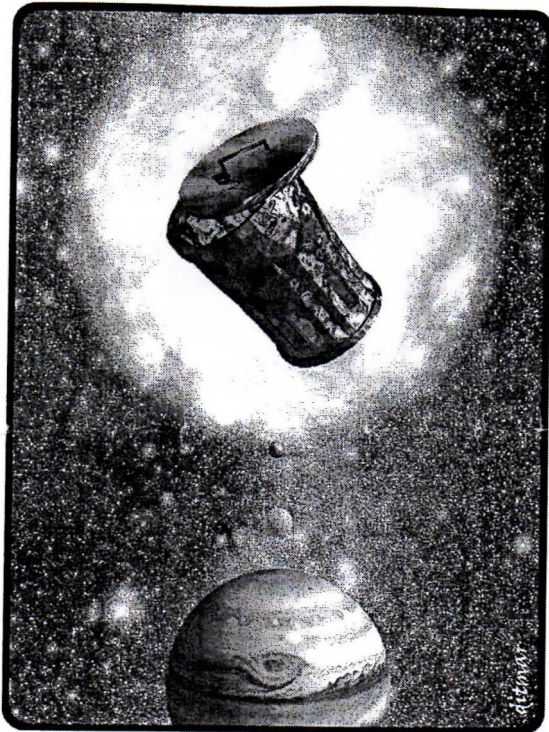


Out of the Bin



'Space Bin' Artwork by Ditmar

Issue #21 February 2004

A Newsletter from MERV BINNS

(edited and produced by Helena Binns)

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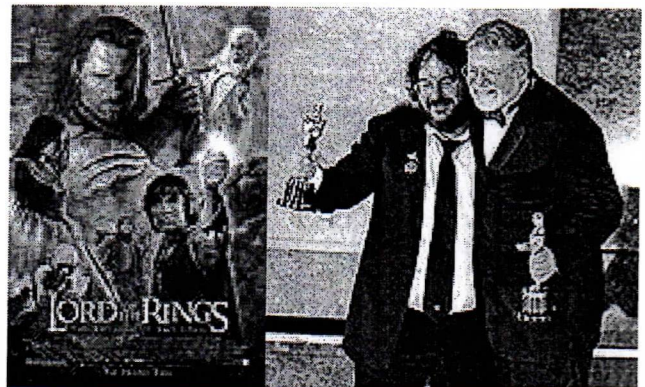
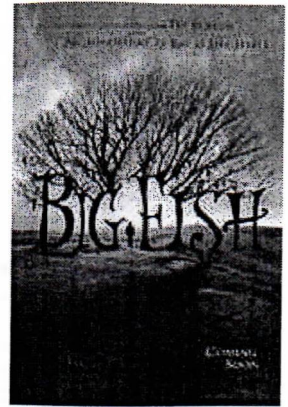
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Dear Readers,

Well, autumn or fall if you like, is almost upon us. It has been a dry summer and the gardens all over have suffered. The lawns are barely alive in most gardens and my dahlias and tomatoes have not fared very well either. The possums have been eating bits of everything including the new little pumpkins as they formed. I have covered lettuces, silver beet and tomatoes and that has stopped the possums and the birds, but I did not think that it was necessary to cover the pumpkins with chicken wire, or the zucchinis, until today. One very large zucchini I was intending to stuff with meat and bake, had a hole eaten in it by the little varmint. *Next year!!!* But the belladonnas, red and yellow canna lilies and the exotic pink flowering bromeliads have been doing well and the dahlias are looking better and flowering as things cool down. What else have I been doing besides working in mine and other people's gardens?

Well I have been reading a lot more than usual and trying not to fall asleep while I am doing that. (I am still trying to get the right balance with my blood-pressure medication.)

We also watch a lot of TV and get to some movies at the theatres. I saw ex-wrestler Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson in the comedy adventure titled *Welcome to the Jungle*. This good-looking tough guy, star also of *The Scorpion King*, may be taking over from Arnie, now that he has become governor of California. It was only a bit of fun but the jungle scenery and the open-cut gem mine were quite spectacular and made it a bit more watchable. I dragged Helena along to see *BIG FISH* starring Albert Finney as the older yarn-spinning family man and Ewan McGregor as his younger self. I enjoyed it as a bit of light "homespun" fantasy but Helena found it only mildly entertaining and overall a bit irritating. At least we did see it on a one-in-three deal for free.



I am rarely pleased with the total outcome of the ACADEMY AWARDS and as usual I would rather have seen other

Producers PETER JACKSON and BARRIE OSBOURNE with their Oscars for Best Director and Best Picture for *TLoiR THE RETURN OF THE KING*

people win the best acting awards. However we were both ecstatic with *The Lord of the Rings - The Return of the King* winning all 11 categories it was nominated for, including Best Picture. A pity at least some acting performance in it did not receive an award. Though there is no doubt that Sean Penn and in particular Tim Robbins turned in powerful performances to win Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor in *Mystic River*. And what little I have seen of the attractive South African actress Charlize Theron, who won the Best Actress Award for her mind-blowing performance in *Monster*, certainly indicates her right to the award. A very attractive lady who transforms herself into a far from good looking, very unattractive woman, beyond the

makeup by the way, who murders eight men. Though no Australians won acting awards this year, we were gratified to see an Australian, Adam Elliot, win the Oscar for the best animated short feature, for his creation *Harvie Krumpet*, a clever piece of 'claymation'.

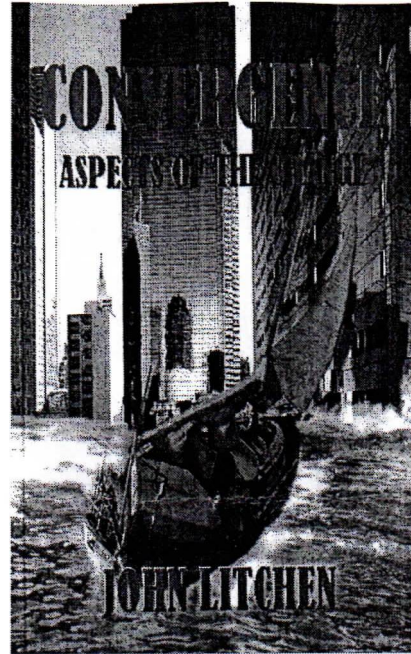
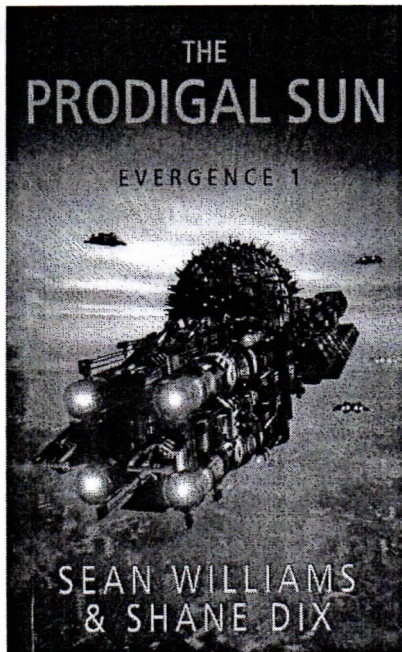


Adam Elliot with 'Harvie Krumpet'

BOOKS

My old friend JOHN LITCHEN has sent me a copy of a book that he has just had published, titled *CONVERGENCE Aspects of the Change*. It contains four science fiction and adventure stories and is in trade PB format published by Zeus Publications, Burleigh, Queensland. John moved up to Queensland from Melbourne about ten years ago, where he lives with his wife Monica and son Brian. He previously produced a book on under water photography and has had numerous articles and stories published. He now teaches the martial art Aikido and edits the official magazine of the Akai-Ki Australia. John, you may remember, did all the filming of the AUSSIECON convention publicity movies. Good luck, John, on this your latest venture and I hope you sell lots of copies. It would have been appropriate for John to have his book out a while back when the SF convention titled "Convergence" was on here.

I have read the three books in Sean Williams and Shane Dix's *Evergence* sequence and I was very favorably impressed. Good space opera with lots of great ideas and exciting situations. I was expecting the second sequence of theirs, *The Orphans Trilogy*, to be a follow on from the first, but although it is not, it is also proving exciting and original. However I do hope that they return to the universe they created in *Evergence*. They are working on further series including the *Geodesica* duology and the *Books of the Cataclysm*, a series of four novels set in the same universe as *The Books of Change*. I have always loved stories depicting spectacular worlds and star systems and contact with aliens and these guys' stories are crammed full of the stuff.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks to Graham Stone, Lyn Smith, Andy Porter, Eric Lindsay, Claire Brialey and others for letters and zines which we will reply to in more detail in due course. Graham informs us that he is giving up his Post Office Box. Apologies to Ken Ozanne and anyone else whose change of address we have failed to take into account with our recent mailings. We received one envelope back from the last mailing of issues 19 and 20, which had lost its label in the mail. So one of our overseas friends has missed out on those issues but we have no way of knowing whom. So, dear friend, if you did not receive our special Lord of the Rings issue and the one after and if you would like to have them, please let us know and we will send them to you.

Merv B

Hey fellas, does the woman in your life treat you like this? Mine certainly does. I can never do anything right!

TIGER



('Tiger' cartoon by Bud Blake from the Melbourne Herald Sun)